

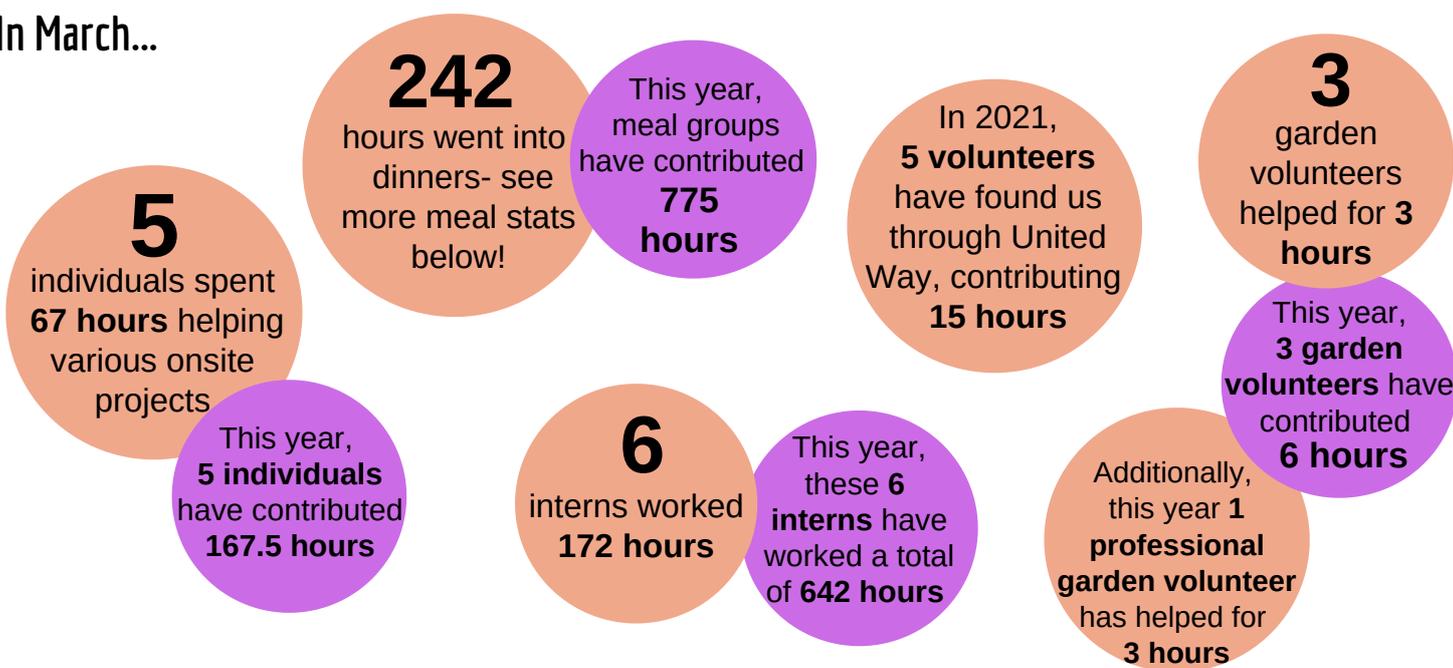
MONTHLY VOLUNTEER REPORT

MARCH 2021

Each month, Guest House has a different *Item of the Month* that we seek out from donation drives and individuals. This helps us prepare for upcoming seasonal needs, as well as jump start new initiatives, which was the case this month. Our March *Item Of The Month* was Household Starter Supplies, such as pots, pans, bath towels, laundry baskets, and more. These items are used to fill Getting Started Kits for clients moving into permanent housing. In February, our Item of the Month was cleaning supplies. Thank you to Sewa International (top), Eaton Corporation (bottom), Alverno College's Graduate Nursing program, and First Congregational UCC for holding Item of the Month drives!



In March...



Spotlight on our Volunteer Roundtables!

In anticipation of April's Volunteer Appreciation Month, on March 16th we hosted the first of 3 days of Volunteer Roundtables! Offered at both 12:00 and 5:30pm, 15 volunteers joined the virtual discussion. We heard from Guest House staff members about their program's work, the affects of COVID-19, and how they plan to continue



...serving those in need. Attendees also received in-depth agency updates and ways to volunteer in the future. It was a great way to reconnect after a year apart! The next Roundtables will be held on April 6th and 27th.

March Meal Stats

We serve a **hot dinner every day!** **24** different volunteer groups and **3** restaurants provided dinners, some for more than one night this month!

A hot lunch is served M-F, & bagged lunches are served on weekends. To supply this, **10** sandwich groups made **15** deliveries, totaling **1,135** sandwiches!

What's a meal without something extra? **9** additional sides or desserts were donated this month.

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

Despite this year's unique learning situation, college and high school students have continued to seek out ways to serve their community. When Marquette University's Global Brigades club realized they could not volunteer abroad, they reached out to Guest House for a "virtual tour". They then spent five months raising funds to assemble and donate 300+ hygiene kits (pictured)! We also worked with juniors at Milwaukee School of Engineering, who learned in-depth about our facilities and Cream City Gardens. With this information, they created blueprints for multiple versions of a Garden Cart that would offer fresh produce to everyone in the neighborhood. Additionally, this winter semester we have six interns representing four local schools and universities. They have been applying their studies to real world situations in multiple Guest House programs, including our AODA & Mental Health Counseling Clinic and Comprehensive Community Services. Thank you to all of our student volunteers and interns!



Photos by Mike De Sisti/ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

In February...

2

individuals spent almost **48 hours** helping various onsite projects

4

individuals have contributed **100.5 hours** this year

255

hours went into dinners- see more meal stats below!

6

interns worked **344 hours**

This year, meal groups have contributed **533 hours**

This year, **6 interns** have worked **631 hours**

In 2021...

2

volunteers found us through United Way, contributing **4 hours**

3

garden volunteers helped for **3 hours**, and **1** professional garden volunteer contributed **1 hour**

February Meal Stats

We serve a **hot dinner every day!** **21** volunteer groups and **5** restaurants provided dinners, some for more than one night this month!

A hot lunch is served M-F, & bagged lunches are served on weekends. To supply this, **9** sandwich groups made **12** deliveries, totaling almost **1,135** sandwiches!

What's a meal without something extra? **8** groups donated additional sides or desserts this month.

Spotlight on Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church



For more than 15 years, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church has generously donated monthly dinners. Deacon DeMarvis (pictured) continues this legacy of kindness by coordinating and delivering the meals today. He says "it is an honor to be a part of Guest House of Milwaukee's food program... not only am I helping out and giving back but it also helped me learn things about myself."

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER REPORT

JANUARY 2021

Everybody could use a treat these days, including our guests! This month we established our Treat Bag volunteer activity, asking community members to fill baggies with snacks, sweets, and a hand-written note. Shelter guests, external housing program clients, and folks utilizing our Clinic or CCS services receive the Treat Bags as a random act of kindness!

This volunteer activity has been popular among families and groups with youth, such as Christ our Savior Lutheran Church in Sussex, who's 7th and 8th graders make them every Sunday. One student commented, "I am helping today even if I don't know the people... It seems like such a small thing to pack some snacks in a bag, but for those who will receive them it's huge!" Other participants are single adults, looking for ways to stay connected from home. A new supporter, Emily J., stated that "it's been difficult to find safe ways to volunteer that directly impact others. I was so glad to find this fun activity, and I love knowing that it'll bring a smile to someone's day!" Throughout January, 5 groups donated 800+ Treat Bags! Some gave as part of their MLK day volunteerism, and others have set up reoccurring donations, bringing joy for months to come.



In January...

4

individuals spent almost **53 hours** helping with various projects

278

hours went into dinners- see more meal stats below!

2

volunteers found us through United Way, contributing **4 hours**

3

garden volunteers helped for **3 hours**, and **1** professional garden volunteer contributed **1 hour**

5

interns worked **286.5 hours**

January Meal Stats

We serve a **hot dinner every day!** **22** volunteer groups and **3** restaurants provided dinners, some for more than one night this month!

A hot lunch is served M-F, & bagged lunches are served on weekends. To supply this, **19** sandwich groups made **32** deliveries, totaling almost **3,000** sandwiches!!

What's a meal without something extra? **8** groups donated additional sides or desserts this month.

Spotlight on Jerry Stepaniak



When we have a quick, urgent need, we know we can call Jerry! He has delivered shelter meals, picked up community donations, and done many tasks in-between. Jerry says, "I help now as an investment in the health and wellness of our community for the generations yet to come... we should think about investing our time and resources in assisting [those who are homeless] to get to the next level. We all benefit by drinking water from wells dug by others, so we should pay it forward by actively investing in these folks."

2020 YEAR END VOLUNTEER REPORT

DECEMBER 2020

During this time of year, we are reminded of how food fosters community. This is also true at Guest House! Three times a day, guests know they'll have a moment to rest and talk with others, even in the current distanced manner. Folks sometimes maintain these friendships after they move on to their next steps. A former guest, now living independently, recently told us how he looks forward to monthly milkshake outings with another man he befriended over dinner in shelter. Their friendship started and continues among food. Beyond building community, these relationships also aid guests' personal growth and recovery. When folks have their basic needs met, they have the time and energy to think more about their goals.

Each month, we serve about 1,860 dinners, 900 hot and bagged lunches, and countless servings of breakfast cereal and coffee... all purchased, prepared and delivered by our amazing volunteers and donors! While meal groups miss coming onsite, they have continued giving this year because they care deeply about guests' well-being. We are so grateful for their continued support!

In December...

5

individuals spent almost **60 hours** helping various onsite projects

23

individuals have contributed **583 hours** this year

2

volunteers found us through United Way, contributing **7 hours**

310

hours went into dinners- see more meal stats below!

2

interns worked **89.5 hours**

6

interns have worked **1,358 hours** this year

This year, meal groups have contributed **2,757+ hours**

In 2020...

30

garden volunteers have contributed **161 hours** this year

1

professional garden volunteer has contributed **46 hours** this year

139

group volunteers have contributed **667 hours** this year

December Meal Stats

We serve a hot dinner every night! **27** volunteer groups and **4** restaurants prepared and delivered **31** dinners

A hot lunch is served M-F, and bagged lunches are served on weekends. To supply this, **13** sandwich groups made **16** deliveries!

What's a meal without something extra? **12** groups donated additional sides or desserts this month.

Spotlight on Winter Item Drives



From October through December, 18 groups coordinated item drives! An additional 7 groups spread holiday cheer by gathering gift items that were distributed to guests on December 23rd. We are so grateful to United Way's Giving Tree, City of Milwaukee & Milwaukee County's Holiday Drive, and the many other groups who gave.

Even in a unique year, our friends found distanced and digital ways to support our guests.

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

This winter, architecture and interior design firm Kahler Slater has been collecting "Getting Started" kits, which provide home goods such as cleaning supplies, kitchenware, and bedding to those moving out of shelter. This drive is part of their 2019-2020 community partnership with Guest House. As part of this work, last year their enthusiastic team painted a beautiful mural in our Emergency Shelter living space (pictured), collected over 300 cold-weather items and 830 undergarment pieces, worked in our Cream City Gardens, and cooked a dinner for guests. When Covid-19 prevented them from making a second meal onsite, they purchased catering from a local business, and included handmade cards for our guests. We are so grateful for Kahler Slater's kindness over the last two years!



In November...

3

individuals spent almost **49 hours** helping various onsite projects

21

individuals have contributed **523 hours** this year

5

interns worked **335.5 hours**

6

interns have worked **1268.5 hours** this year

290

hours went into dinners- see more meal stats below!

This year, meal groups have contributed **2,157+ hours**

In 2020...

30

garden volunteers have contributed **160.5 hours** this year

1

professional garden volunteer has contributed **45.5 hours** this year

139

group volunteers have contributed **667 hours** this year

November Meal Stats

We served a hot dinner every night! 24 volunteer groups and 4 restaurants prepared and delivered **30** dinners.

A hot lunch is served M-F, and bagged lunches are served on weekends. To supply this, **18** sandwich groups made **27** deliveries!

What's a meal without a sweet ending? **6** groups donated **8** additional desserts this month.

Spotlight on Greendale Community Church

For many years, Greendale Community Church has donated dinners and sandwiches, but in 2020 they pivoted to providing large amounts of unique items, such as box fans, as well as meals for our new Marsha's House program. Rev. Gaeth explains that they help because we "... provide systemic change. Guest House is not a band-aid for a social problem. Instead, it works side by side with the population... provid(ing) care for the total person."

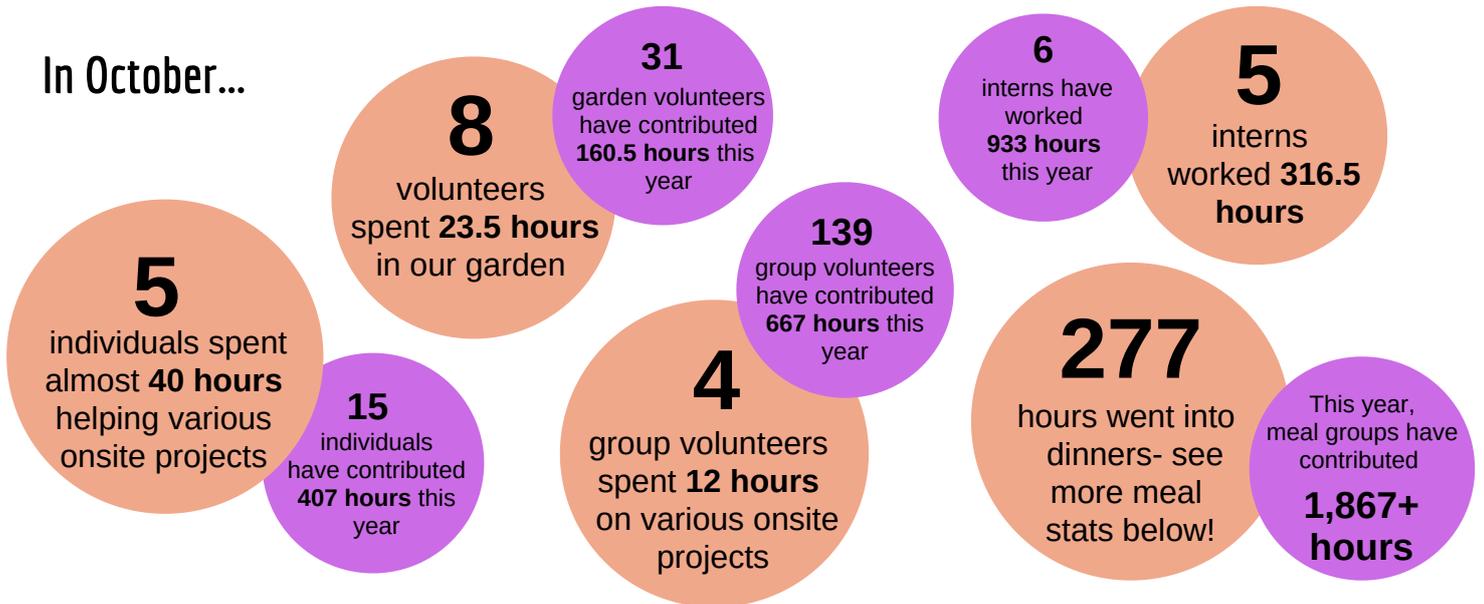


MONTHLY VOLUNTEER REPORT

OCTOBER 2020

This month, volunteers focused on closing out our Cream City Gardens, located across the street from our 13th St. location. They harvested the last of the available crops, which will be used in shelter lunches and by clients in our Interim and Supportive Housing programs. Volunteers also pulled and composted dead plant matter, spread rich completed compost on many of the 56 beds, prepped our Rain Garden for winter, and picked up trash before it is encased in snow. One volunteer from St. Eugene's in Fox Point enthusiastically collected trash for the full two hours, as she was "so excited to get outside, with nothing but silence and the sound of the wind" after spending so many months working from home. Beautifying the garden, which includes a covered patio open to guests and community members, not only supports our crops, but also supports our guests by providing a dignified space to relax, learn, and connect.

In October...



Spotlight on Berean Family Worship Center

Last winter, Berean Family Worship Center was planning onsite Bible Study workshops, and then Covid-19 struck. Without meeting a single guest, they dived into our new normal, and pivoted to supply in-kind items. Every month or so, their members pool fiscal donations, and make a large purchase off our Amazon Wishlist. They have enthusiastically provided some of our more unique items, including coat racks and dozens of toiletry bags, as well as the hygiene products most requested by our Black guests. We are so grateful that this new friend has turned into an ongoing supporter.



October Meal Stats

22 Volunteer Groups prepared and delivered a meal- some doing more than one this month!

4 restaurants catered dinners.

A hot lunch is served M-F. This month, lunch included 5 donated meals, and 17 meals prepared onsite using dinner leftovers and donated ingredients.

We do sandwich lunch on weekends. 14+ groups donated this month!